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13 May 1964

STAFF NOTE

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Writings Indicate Growing Concern for Limited Wars

1. The trend toward acceptance of the possibility of limited warfare between Western and Bloc forces in Soviet military doctrine which was noted in recent estimates (11-14-63, 11-4-63) has become more evident in Soviet military writings over the past few months. The following excerpts are considerably less evasive than the previous formula of "we must study the problem":

From a book "Dialectics and Military Science" by Col. S. I. Krupnov, published 14 Sep 1963.

"Social conflicts give rise to the possibility of diverse wars in the modern epoch: world wars, local wars between socialist and imperialist states, wars of national liberation, civil wars, and wars between individual capitalist countries.

"Soviet military doctrine proceeds from the fact that our Armed Forces must be prepared for a world nuclear war which the imperialist aggressors may unleash by surprise. But it also provides for the possibility of local wars. Military art must also be developed accordingly."

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From an article in RED STAR by Col. General Glebov,

2 April 1964.

"It is necessary to point out in conclusion that at the same time as working out the theory and practice of the use of operation formations under conditions of nuclear war, Soviet operational strategy considers the problems of carrying out operations and military actions without the use of nuclear weapons, but under conditions of its possible use at any time. The role of the formations of land and air forces increases in carrying out operations without nuclear weapons. The operational formations of the air defense forces of the country and the Navy also retain their importance."

Col. V. Korotkov "On the Development of Soviet Military Theory in the Postwar Years" -- Military Historical Journal, No. 4, April 1964, p. 48.

"It ought to be recognized that our military thought, having duly worked out the problem of conducting rocket-nuclear war, has given insufficient attention to limited (local) [sic] wars, although the imperialist powers have repeatedly throughout the post-war history resorted to them for the attainment of their goals by forcible means. Only of late [v poslednee vremia] have we begun to correct this shortcoming."

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2. As might be expected, there is a corresponding increase in statements concerning the necessity for strong tactical aviation, since Soviet forces are critically weak in this respect for conventional operations. In an article by Marshal Rotmistrov in RED STAR, 26 April 1964, he contended that underestimation and contempt of conventional services are impermissible and harmful; despite rocketry, a rather important role must be assigned to aviation. (See FBIS Daily Report, USSR and East Europe, No. 84, 29 April 1964).

D. O. G.

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